

IRON MAN



Iron Man and War Machine's old colleague Vic Martinelli came into possession of the Mandarin's rings. Vic was then murdered, and the heroes traced his death back to Source Control, an international black market for high-powered weaponry and technology.

Iron Man and War Machine teamed up with Carl Walker, A.K.A. Force, to take down Source Control. Tony began by using his vast wealth to secretly buy up their resources. After a battle with Source Control's agent the Titanium Man, Tony made it appear that he was in a coma. But in reality, Tony donned stealth armor and secretly traveled to Macau along with War Machine and Force for a final showdown with Source Control!

**BUY THE
FOUR**



WRITER • CHRISTOPHER CANTWELL ARTIST • ANGEL UNZUETA
COLOR ARTIST • FRANK D'ARMATA LETTERER • VC's JOE CARAMAGNA

COVER • ALEX ROSS
VARIANT COVER • FRANCIS MANAPUL
DESIGNER • CARLOS LAO

ASSISTANT EDITOR • MARTIN BIRO ASSOCIATE EDITOR • ANNALISE BISSA
EDITOR • TOM BREVOORT EDITOR IN CHIEF • C.B. CEBULSKI

IRON MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER, DON HECK & JACK KIRBY

OF ALL THE
GAMES THAT TAKE
YOUR MONEY...



...CRAPS IS
THE **MOST FUN**.
BECAUSE IT'S THE
MOST...**SOCIAL**.



EIGHT
THE **HARD**
WAY...

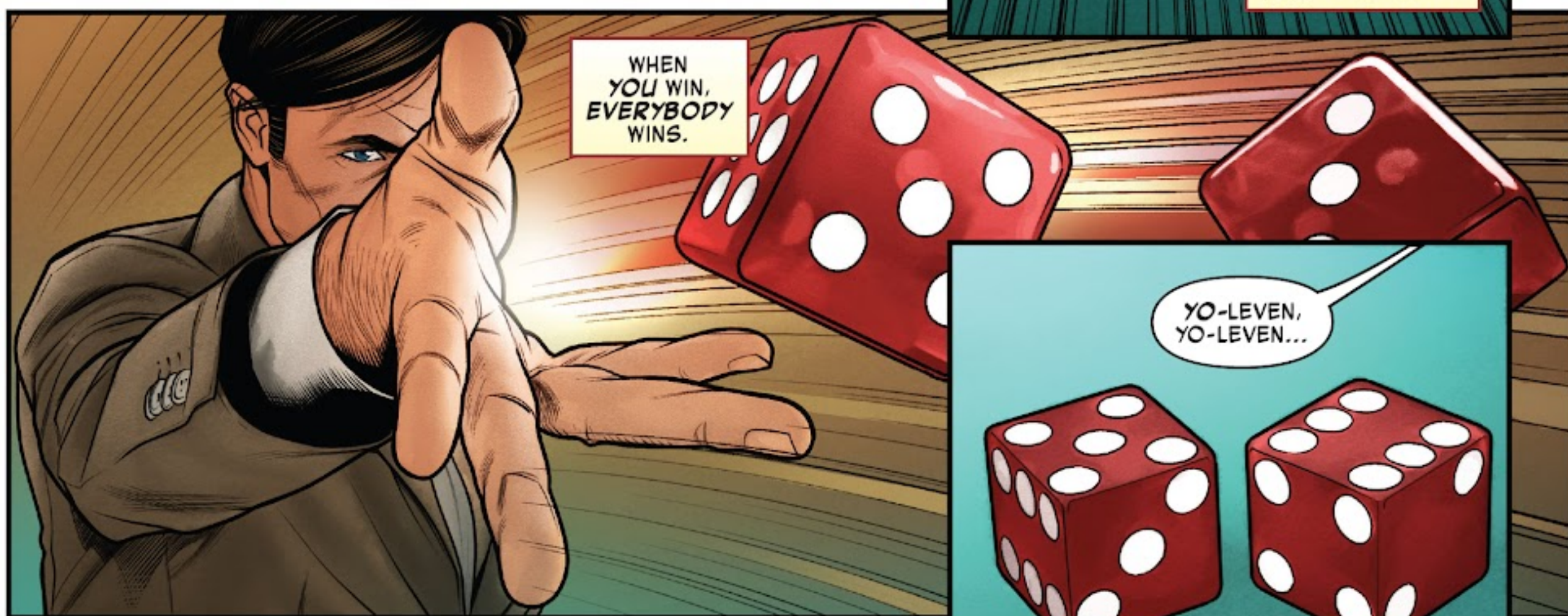


IF YOU'RE A HOT
ROLLER--FOR A **BRIEF**
MOMENT--YOU HAVE
YOURSELF YOUR OWN
LITTLE **SUPPORTIVE**
COMMUNITY.

BUY THE FOUR
AND ANOTHER
TWO HUNDRED ON
THE FIELD...



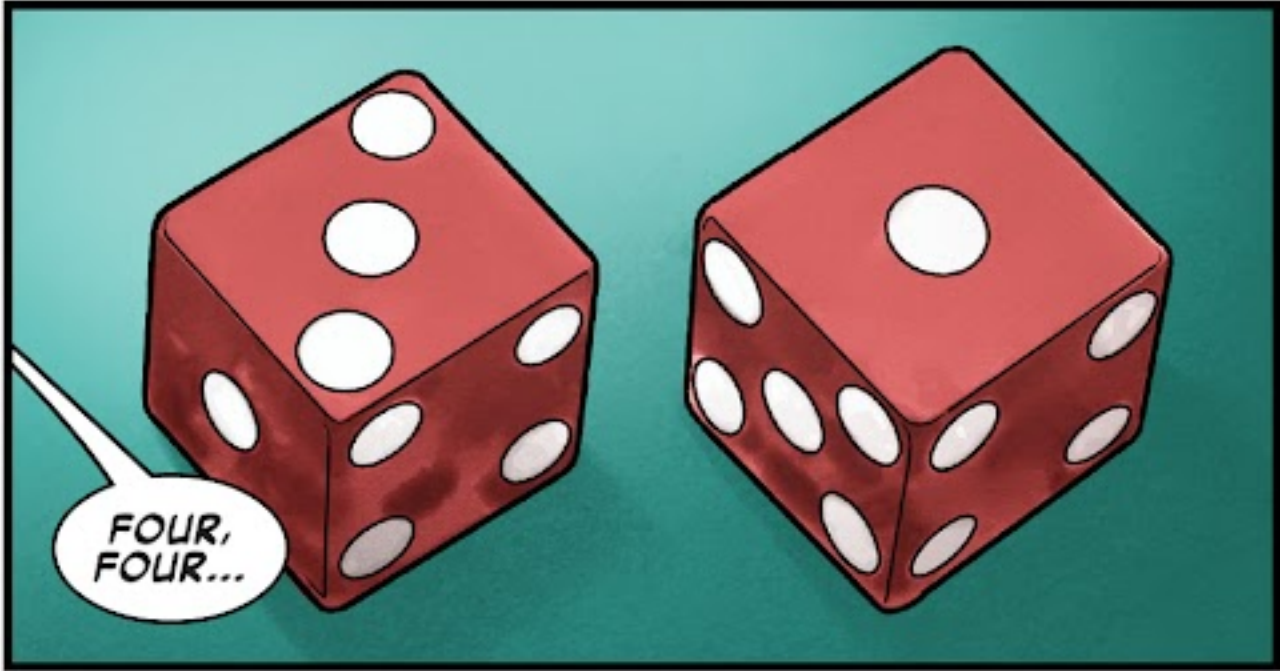
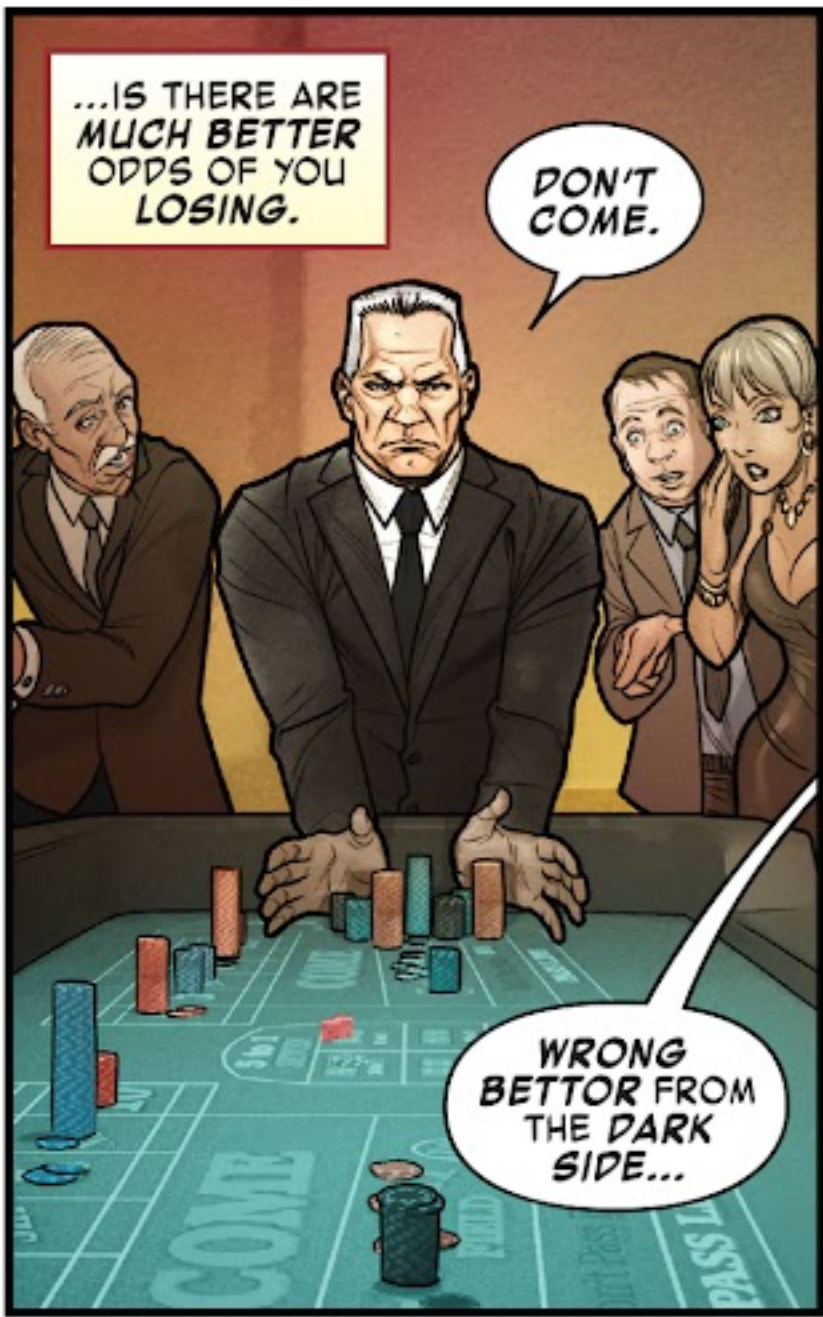
THE **WHOLE**
WORLD'S WITH
YOU, BETTING ON
YOU TO SUCCEED.



WHEN
YOU WIN,
EVERYBODY
WINS.



YO-LEVEN,
YO-LEVEN...







IT'S BEEN MAYBE
A MONTH SINCE
WE GOT HERE.



IN THAT TIME, I'VE
SPENT OVER *SIXTY*
BILLION DOLLARS.
THAT'S A *RECORD.*
EVEN FOR ME.



HOW MANY TIMES UNTIL
ONE OF THESE GOES
WRONG?

SO
FAR, SO
GOOD.

EASY
FOR YOU
TO SAY...

MOST OF THE THINGS
I'VE BOUGHT COULD
KILL THE WORLD *SIX*
TIMES OVER.



JUST
BE COOL,
CARL.

I'D FEEL
COOLER IN
MY SUIT...



YOU'RE IN A
SUIT. A PRICEY
TAILORED
ONE.

YOU KNOW
WHAT I--

YOU KEEP
TALKING TO
YOURSELF, THOSE
SELLERS ARE
GONNA GET
ANTSY.



YOU ALL
RIGHT?

YEAH--
AHM--
JUST FIGHTING
A LITTLE
COLD...



ON TONIGHT'S
SOURCE CONTROL
MENU...*TIME*
DISPLACEMENT
BLASTERS.

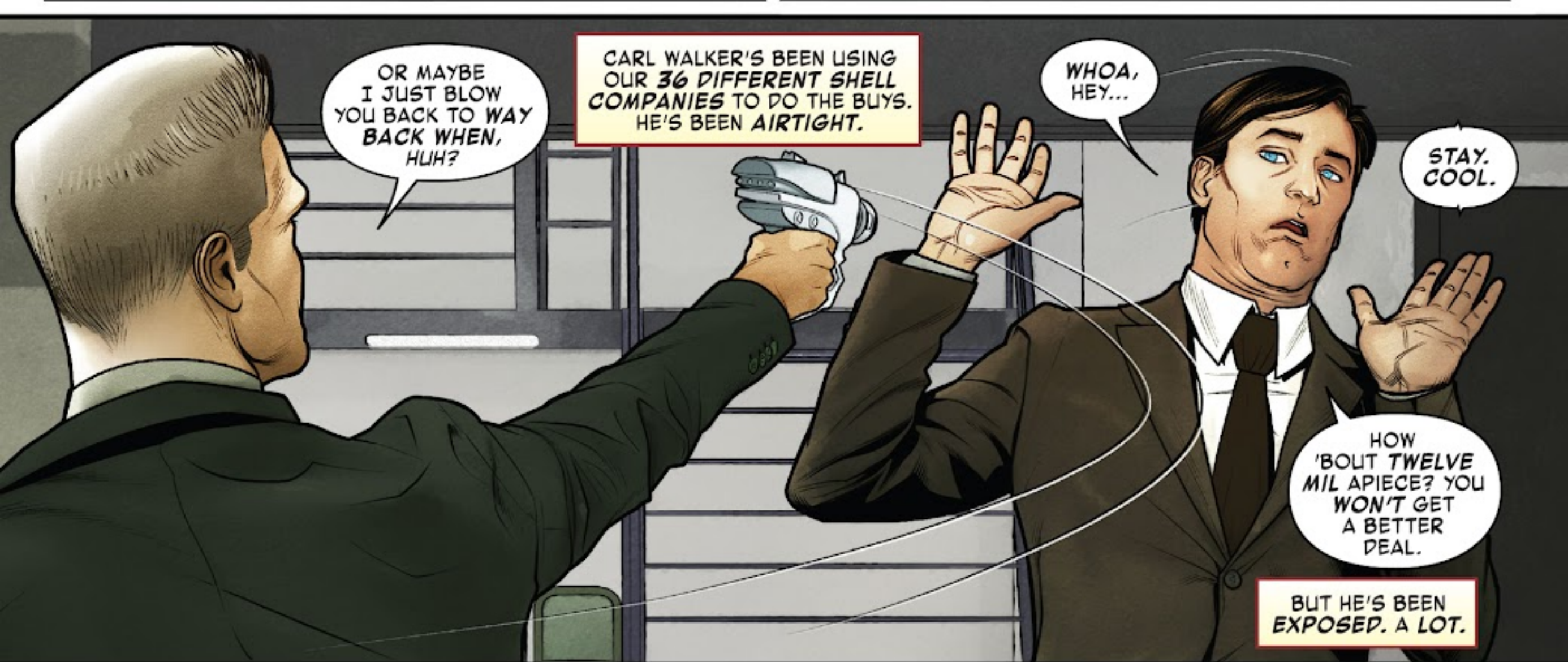


ONE HIT FROM THESE SENDS YOU TO ANOTHER MOMENT IN TIME. MAYBE THE 31ST CENTURY. MAYBE 1781. MAYBE JUST AFTER THE BIG BANG. SOME POCKET DIMENSION. LIMBO PLACE. YOU CHOOSE.

LOVELY. I'LL, UH... "BUY THE FOUR."



OKAY...



OR MAYBE I JUST BLOW YOU BACK TO WAY BACK WHEN, HUH?

CARL WALKER'S BEEN USING OUR 36 DIFFERENT SHELL COMPANIES TO DO THE BUYS. HE'S BEEN AIRTIGHT.

WHOA, HEY...

STAY. COOL.

HOW 'BOUT TWELVE MIL APIECE? YOU WON'T GET A BETTER DEAL.

BUT HE'S BEEN EXPOSED. A LOT.



THE TOP TIER OF SOURCE CONTROL HAS BEEN CONNECTING THE DOTS. INFUX OF BUYERS IN THE MARKET RECENTLY.

BUT IN THE END, ALL THOSE "BUYERS" TRACE BACK TO ONE GUY. YOU.

MAYBE THAT'S ON ME.



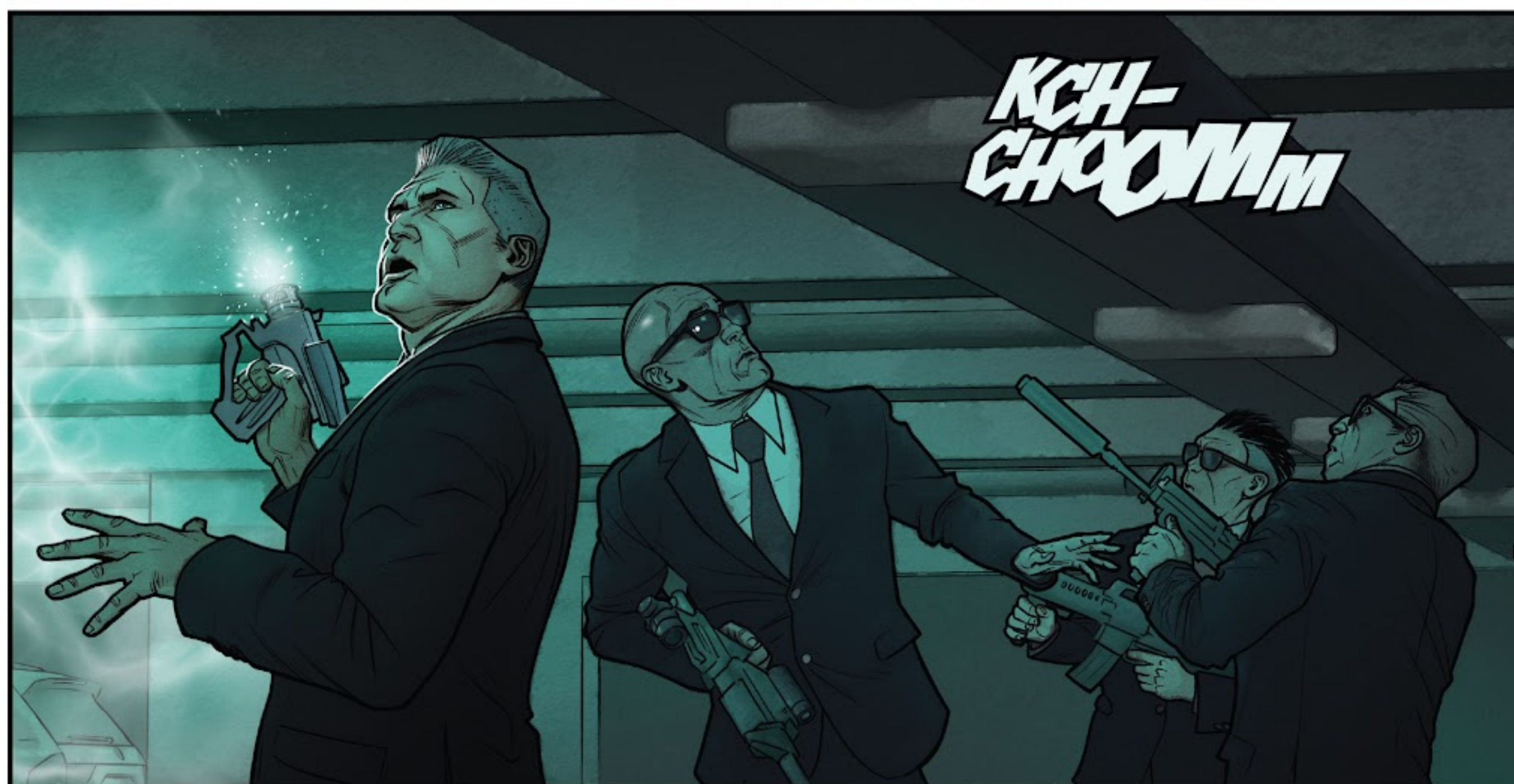
HEY, NOW. YOU WANT MY MONEY OR NOT?



NO, YOU'RE NOT. WAR MACHINE SHOWS UP AND IT BLOWS THE LID OFF EVERYTHING WE'RE DOING HERE.



HE'S NOT DEAD. HE'S BEEN DISPLACED.



PITCHOWWFFCH



ZWAACKOW

FIRST VIC
GOT KILLED.
NOW WE
LOSE CARL.

NORMALLY, I'D BLAME
MYSELF. WITHDRAW.
ISOLATE. TURN TO
POOR COPING
MECHANISMS.

BUT *SOMEBODY*
HAD TO BE OUT
FRONT. IF *I*
COULD'VE DONE IT,
I WOULD HAVE.

NO. THE BAD
GUY ISN'T ME.
IT'S THESE DEATH
DEALERS.

IT'S
SOURCE
CONTROL.

ZWAACKOWM

ZWAACKOWM
ZWAACKOWM

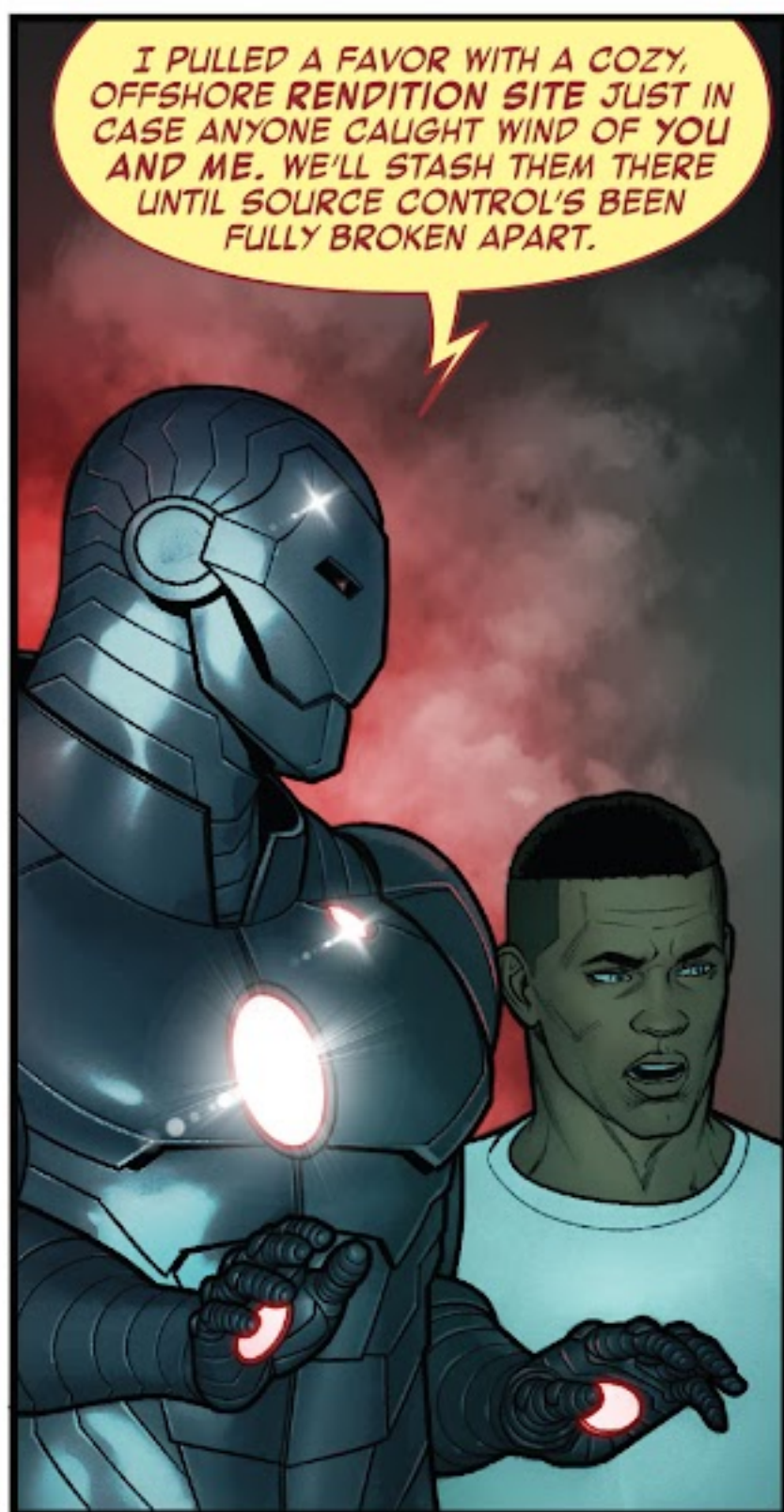
AND I'M GOING TO
DESTROY THEIR
ENTIRE NETWORK.

ZWAACKOWM
ZWAACKOWM ZWAACKOWM



BLASTERS ARE SECURED. LET'S GET THEM TO BETHANY ON LONG ISLAND. USUAL ROUTE. KICK PLENTY OF DIRT OVER IT.

WHAT ABOUT *THESE* FOOLS? THEY'VE SEEN YOU NOW.



I PULLED A FAVOR WITH A COZY, OFFSHORE RENDITION SITE JUST IN CASE ANYONE CAUGHT WIND OF YOU AND ME. WE'LL STASH THEM THERE UNTIL SOURCE CONTROL'S BEEN FULLY BROKEN APART.



ONCE THE WEAPONS MARKET THREAT IS OVER, WE'LL HAND THESE GOONS OVER TO THE CRIMINAL COURTS.



I'M SORRY WE LOST CARL.

ME TOO.

WE'LL FIND HIM. WE'LL GET HIM BACK. I PROMISE.



WHAT *ELSE* ARE WE WILLING TO LOSE ON THIS ONE, TONY?

YOU MEAN BESIDES TWO OLD FRIENDS AND SIXTY BILLION DOLLARS?

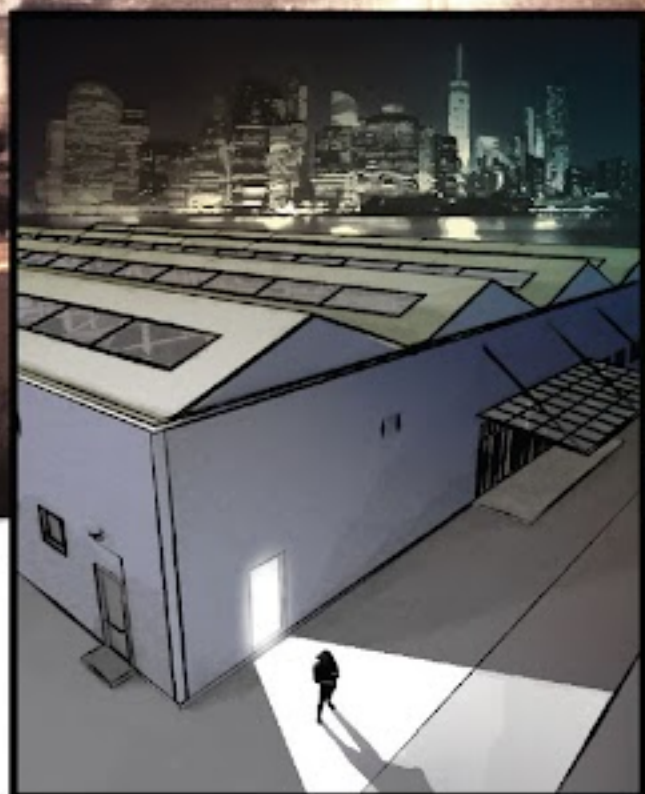


EVERYTHING.

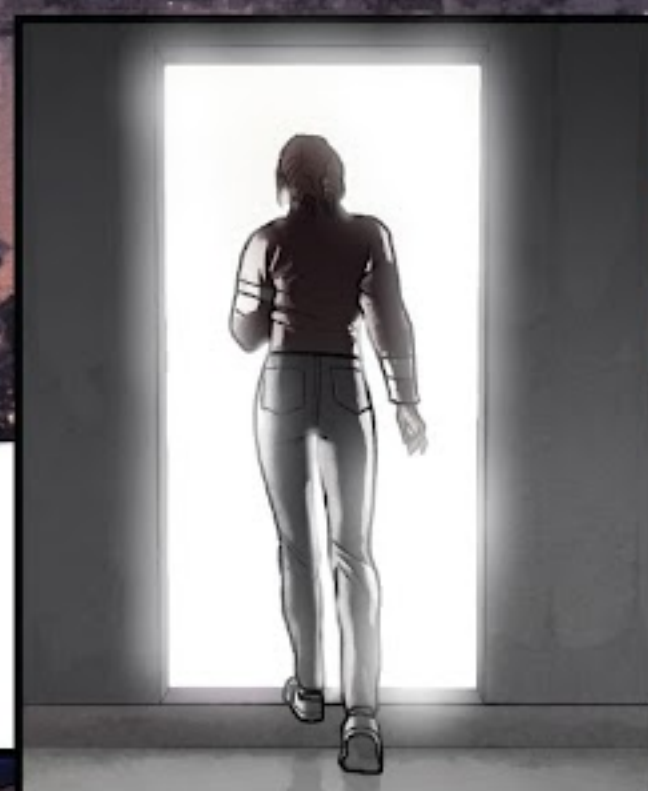
MY FATHER MADE HIS NAME AND FORTUNE SELLING WEAPONS. I INHERITED IT ALL WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT...



...UNTIL I REALIZED
IT WAS *PEOPLE LIKE US...*
THOSE WHO CREATE AND
FACILITATE *TECHNOLOGY*
AND *INNOVATION*
WITHOUT REGARD FOR
THE *CONSEQUENCES...*



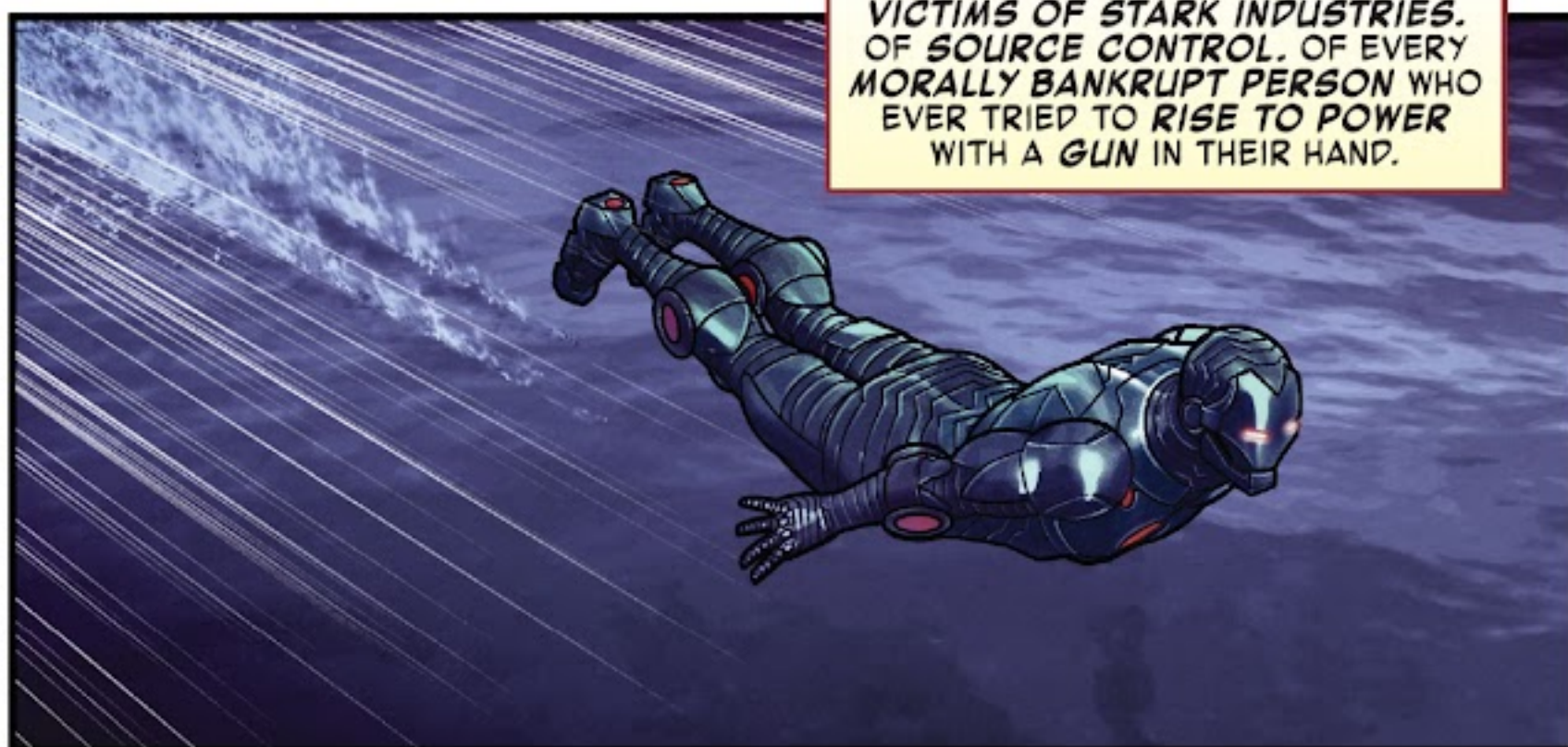
...WHO MIGHT VERY
WELL BE THE ONES TO
DESTROY ALL LIFE
AS WE KNOW IT.



I WILL *DISMANTLE*
EVERYTHING I'VE PURCHASED
FROM SOURCE CONTROL. BUT
NOT BEFORE I'VE PERSONALLY
REVERSE ENGINEERED EACH
ITEM IN ORDER TO FIGURE
OUT HOW TO *NULLIFY* THE
THREAT THEY POSE.



I WILL *UNDO DEATH*. FOR ALL THE
VICTIMS OF STARK INDUSTRIES.
OF *SOURCE CONTROL.* OF EVERY
MORALLY BANKRUPT PERSON WHO
EVER TRIED TO *RISE TO POWER*
WITH A *GUN* IN THEIR HAND.



FOR VIC.
FOR CARL.



**TWO DAYS
LATER.**

OKAY. THE FLUNKIES WHO CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF YOUR **BUCKET HEAD** ARE NOW SITTING PRETTY IN **GUARDED HOTEL ROOMS** THEY CAN'T LEAVE. AND **CABE** RECEIVED THE TIME DISPLACEMENT BLASTERS IN NEW YORK.

GOOD.

BETHANY SAYS OUR "**BOOM CLOSET**" IS GETTING **AWFULLY FULL**. PLUS IT'S ONE **POWDER KEG** OF A SECRET...

...AND A **LITERAL POWDER KEG**, CONSIDERING THE **INVENTORY**.

I NEED TO GET **ONE MORE THING** OUT OF **SOURCE CONTROL'S** HANDS.

TONY, THEY ALREADY **SNIFFED OUT CARL**. IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY SHINE A LIGHT ON **US**. WE GET OUT NOW, COME BACK WITH THE **AVENGERS--**

NO. NOT YET.

I'M NOT LEAVING UNTIL I WALK OUT OF HERE WITH THE **MANDARIN'S RINGS**.

THEY KILLED **VIC** FOR THOSE RINGS. A BIG ASSAULT RISKS THEM **DISAPPEARING**. AND THEN WHAT? WE JUST WAIT FOR SOMEONE TO **HAND THEM** TO US AGAIN?

IF WE **LOSE THEM** THIS TIME-- **GUARANTEED...**

...THE NEXT PERSON WHO SHOWS UP WITH THOSE RINGS WILL BE **WEARING THEM**.

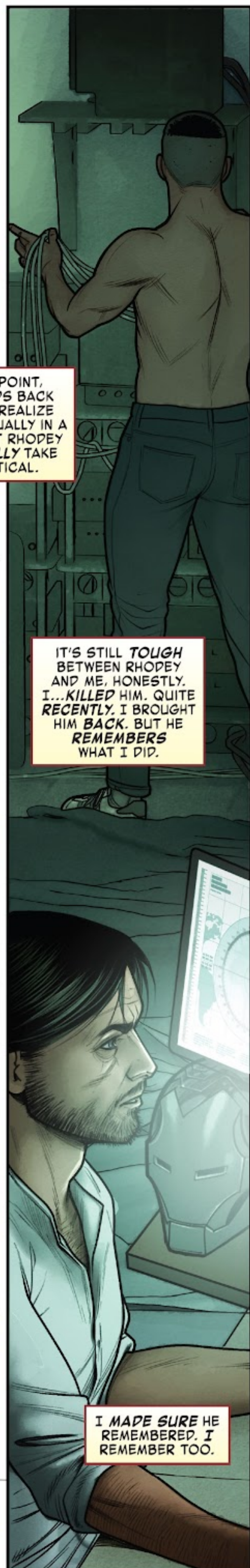


RHODEY AND I TRY TO GET A **BITE** ON THE RINGS. USING THE SHELL COMPANY NETWORK, CARL'S CONTACTS. MAKING IT LOOK LIKE CARL IS **STILL ACTIVE** IN THE MARKET.



WE DON'T SLEEP FOR **THREE DAYS**.

THE DOOR COULD GET **KICKED IN** AT ANY MOMENT. WE COULD BE FOUND OUT, HAULED AWAY, **DISAPPEAR**.



AT SOME POINT, OUR FRIENDS BACK HOME WILL REALIZE I'M NOT ACTUALLY IN A **COMA**. THAT RHODEY DIDN'T **REALLY** TAKE A SABBATICAL.

IT'S STILL **TOUGH** BETWEEN RHODEY AND ME, HONESTLY. I...**KILLED** HIM. QUITE **RECENTLY**. I BROUGHT HIM **BACK**. BUT HE **REMEMBERS** WHAT I DID.

I MADE **SURE** HE REMEMBERED. I REMEMBER TOO.



IT'S UP TO
HIM IF HE EVER
FORGIVES ME.
I HOPE HE **DOES**.



BECAUSE...HE'S
MY **BEST FRIEND**.
I DON'T WANT TO
LOSE HIM ON TOP OF
EVERYTHING ELSE
I'VE LOST RECENTLY.



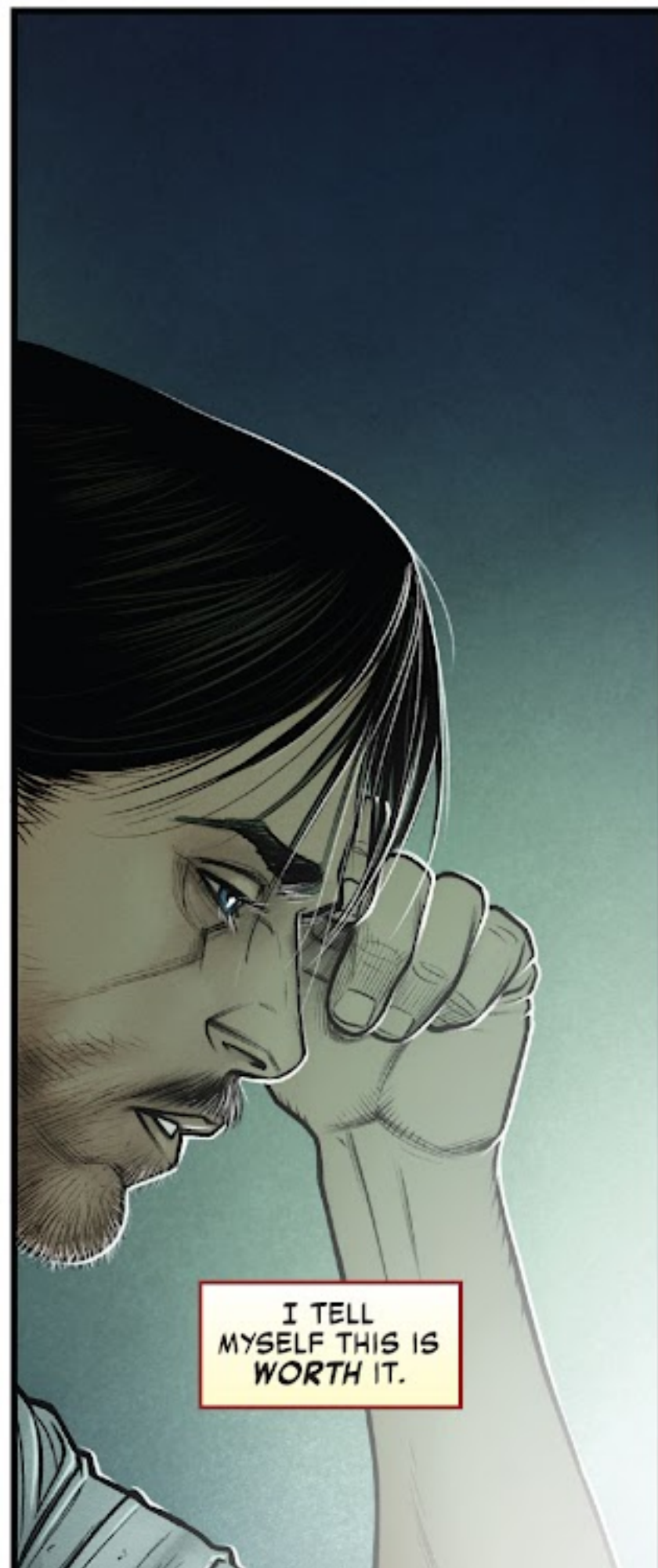
PATSY.
MY **SOBRIETY.**
MY **SELF-**
CONTROL.
VIC AND CARL.



BUT HE'S **HERE**.
HE **TRUSTS** ME.
EVEN AS I LIE **ONCE**
AGAIN TO EVERYONE
BACK HOME.



I TRY NOT
TO FALL
ASLEEP.



I TELL
MYSELF THIS IS
WORTH IT.

IF I LET **SOURCE**
CONTROL GO
UNCHECKED...RHODEY MAY
ONE DAY FIND HIMSELF ON
THE **RECEIVING END** OF
ONE OF THESE WEAPONS.
OR **PATSY**. OR **CAP**.

I THINK ABOUT
WHAT THOSE
RINGS ARE
CAPABLE OF.

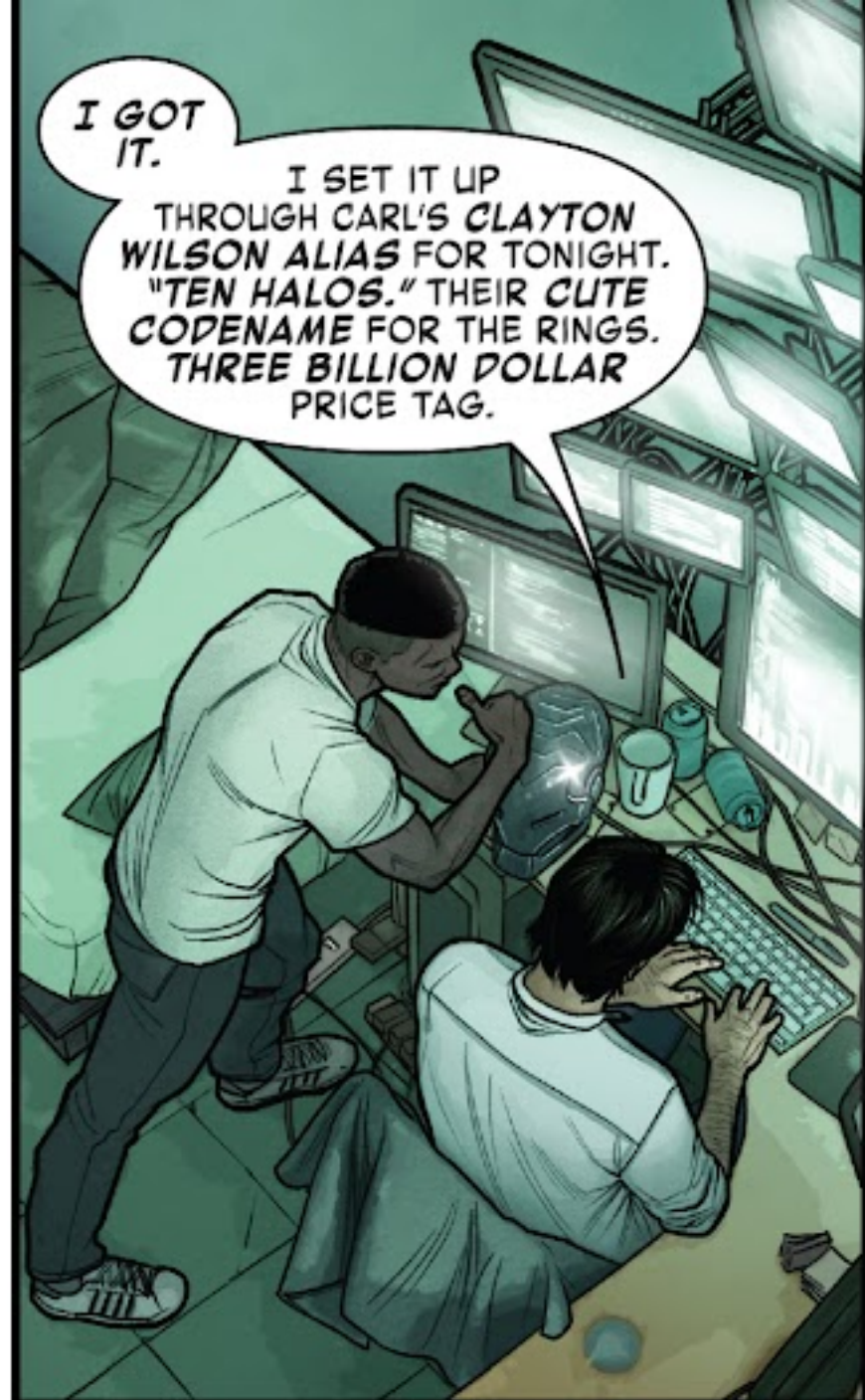
WHAT THEY
CAN DO TO A
WHOLE CITY OF
INNOCENTS.

A WHOLE
PLANET.

IRON MAN WAS
BUILT TO **DISARM**
THOSE WHO WOULD
SEEK TO **WEAPONIZE**
AGAINST OTHERS
FOR POWER.

I BUILT
MYSELF TO
STOP THEM.

AND I
WILL.



I GOT IT.

I SET IT UP THROUGH CARL'S CLAYTON WILSON ALIAS FOR TONIGHT. "TEN HALOS." THEIR CUTE CODENAME FOR THE RINGS. THREE BILLION DOLLAR PRICE TAG.



THEN LET'S GET AFTER IT.



I THOUGHT AGAIN ABOUT HAVING CARL OUT FRONT ON ALL THIS.

THING IS, SOURCE CONTROL IS ABOUT MONEY.

NO IDEOLOGY.

THEY DON'T CARE WHO WINS OR LOSES.

THEY'RE THE HOUSE. AND THE HOUSE ALWAYS WINS.

I FIGURED MY BOLDEST MOVE AT THE TABLE WOULD BE TO INTRODUCE A NEW SHOOTER.

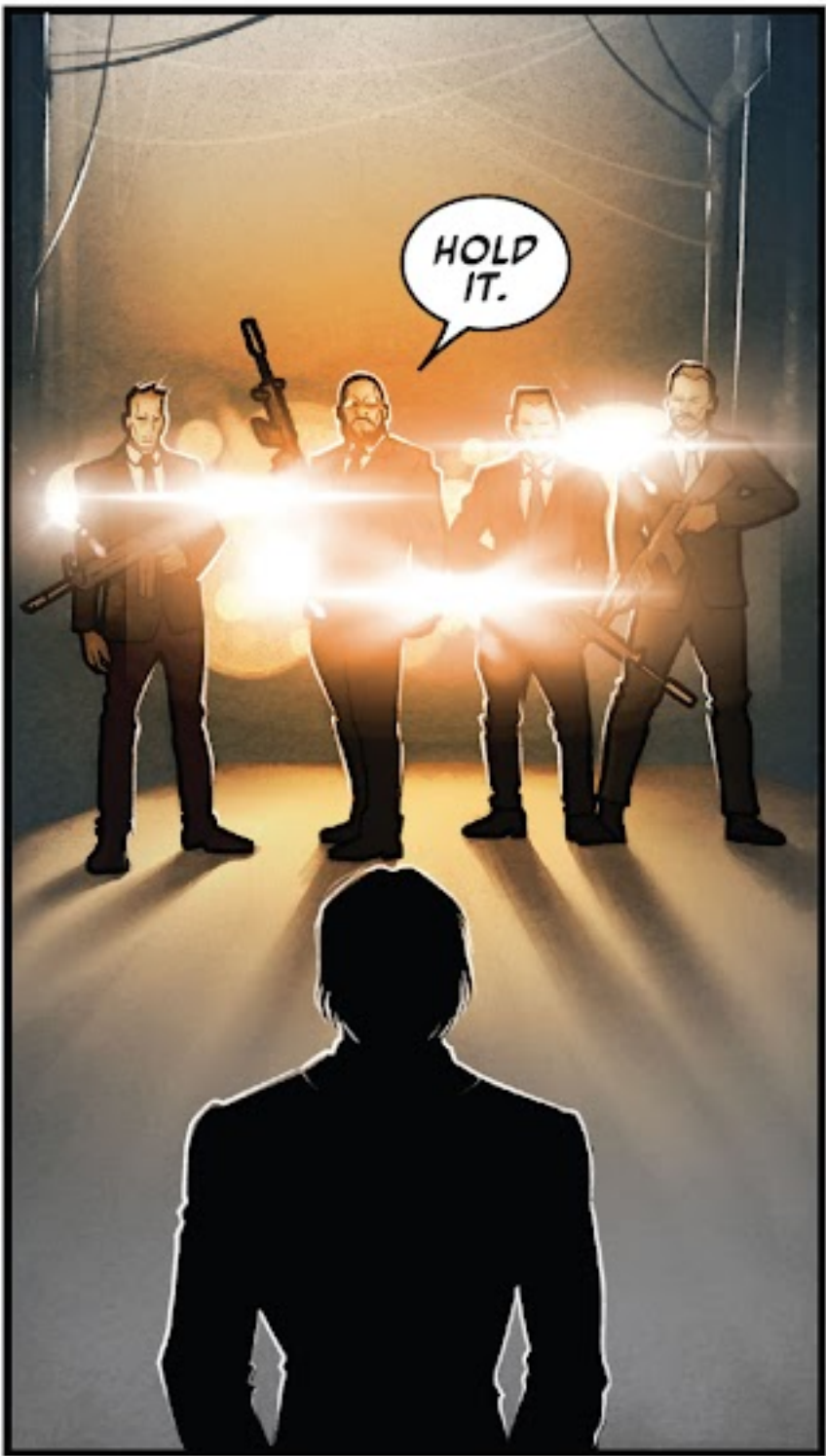
ME.



THEY SHOT
CARL BECAUSE
THEY SUSPECTED
DOUBLE-DEALING.
LIES. THEY
WERE **RIGHT.**



BECAUSE
I WAS LYING
TO THEM.



HOLD
IT.



SO I
WON'T
ANYMORE.



TONY,
PLEASE STAY
SHARP DOWN
THERE. THIS
IS CRAZY.

HA HA HA!



MY
MONEY'S
AS GOOD AS
ANYONE
ELSE'S.

OH, THIS IS
GOOD. TONY STARK.
OUT IN FRONT LIKE
THE HERO HE IS.
OKAY...



WELL, HERE I AM TOO.

WELCOME TO THE TOP TIER OF SOURCE CONTROL.

THREE BILLION DOLLARS IS STILL THREE BILLION DOLLARS, SPYMASTER.

AND I WANT THE RINGS. WHAT DO YOU CARE WHO BUYS THEM?



YOU KNOW WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU? YOU ALWAYS GET TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER. RIGHT AWAY.

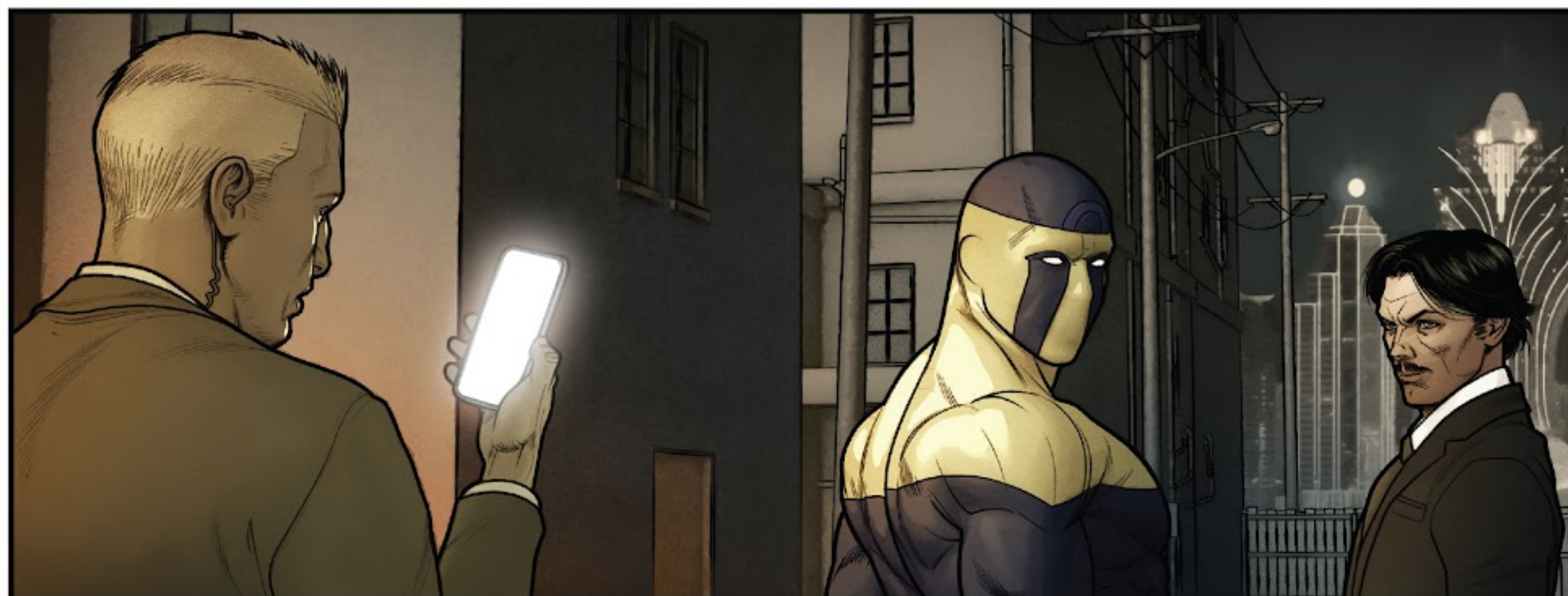
I ALREADY BOUGHT ALL YOUR OTHER TOYS. NOW I WANT THESE. TAKE THE MONEY.

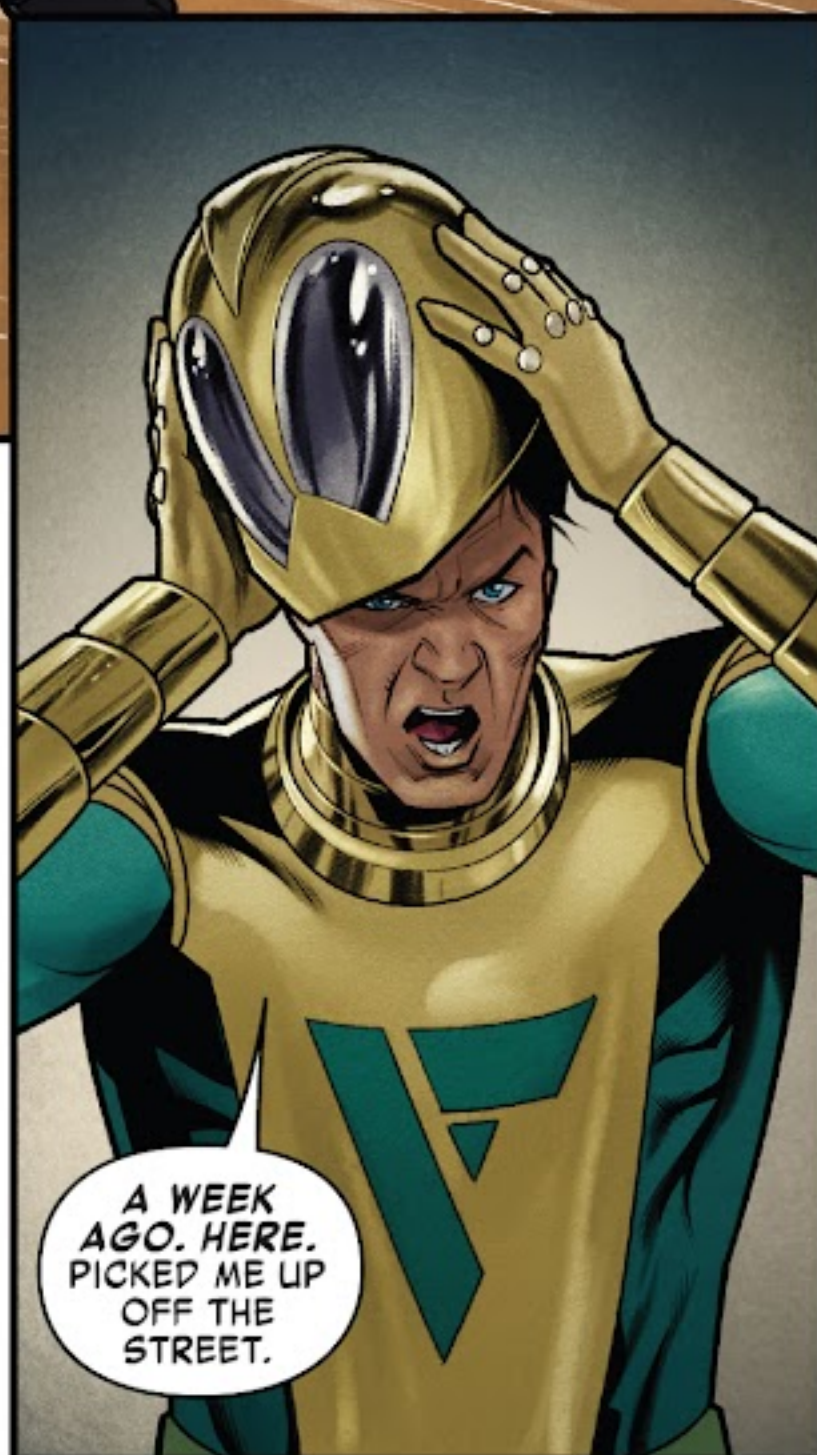
RIGHT, AND THEN INTERPOL OR THE AVENGERS OR WHO KNOWS WHO ELSE COMES CRASHING DOWN ON OUR HEADS.



NO. SEE, I'M OFFERING SOMETHING ELSE ON TOP OF THE THREE BILLION.

YOU WALK.









NEXT



TONY STARK HAS BANKRUPTED HIMSELF BUYING UP EVERY PIECE OF DANGEROUS TECH ON THE BLACK MARKET, DISMANTLING IT FROM THE INSIDE. BUT NOW HE'LL HAVE TO FACE THE COBALT MAN IF HE WANTS TO GET HIS HANDS ON THE MANDARIN'S RINGS!

